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**Speech by Lekgetho Makola of Principal Prince Claus Laureate Market Photo Workshop, on the occasion of the 2018 Prince Claus Awards at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam on 6 December 2018**

Your Majesties, Your Royal Highness, Excellencies

Being acknowledged as the 2018 Principal Prince Claus Laureate is by far the greatest accolade that the Market Photo Workshop has received for the amazing and invaluable contributions from many creative practitioners that have interacted, contributed, funded and worked with this space over the 29 years of its existence. This prestigious Award means that the Market Photo Workshop's footprint is also globally recognized for its photography and visual arts practice.

We acknowledge the role played by many of our partners who have executed a pivotal role in our existence through funding linkages, collaborations, media and training relationships and stakeholder investments. This includes the important support that the South African Government has provided for infrastructural and operational funding through the Department of Arts and Culture, which has led to the Market Photo Workshop's success to provide visionary education and training opportunities for a broad constituency of learners and trainees.

We thank the students, alumni and the participants in our programmes who have gone out into the world and impacted positively on perceptions and goals for driving social change. Without them, the intended impact of the mission and vision of the Market Photo Workshop would never be realised. The past and current staff and trainers of the Market Photo Workshop are acknowledged for their commitment which ensures that the recognition of the space grows with a comprehensive and relevant curriculum, recruitment of diverse students, and successful collaborations conducted with various partner organisations.

The Market Photo Workshop has ambitious plans to expand in all areas of operations over the long term. For many years its vision has been supported by Embassies, Foundations and philanthropy organisations. The Prince Claus Fund and this Award will continue to support the Market Photo Workshop's brand to remain a highly sought-after and socially respected property – one that contributes significantly to the development of photographic conversations and toward building an international community that values human rights and social justice.